



CDPHE/ATSDR/EPA health care provider letter

April 15, 2000

Dear Dr. \_\_\_\_\_:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is currently evaluating residential properties in several Northeast Denver neighborhoods for arsenic and lead contamination in soil. Neighborhoods include parts of Elyria, Cole, Clayton, Southwest Globeville, and Swansea. The area, delineated by the Burlington Northern rail tracks to the west, Colorado Blvd on the east, 52<sup>nd</sup> Avenue to the north and Martin Luther King Boulevard to the south, is referred to as the **Vasquez Boulevard/Interstate 70 (VB/I-70) Superfund site**.

Health agencies, including the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) are investigating these neighborhoods to determine if the elevated levels of arsenic and lead found at some residential properties could cause health problems in the community.

As part of the Superfund process, the EPA is conducting a risk assessment and ATSDR is conducting a public health assessment for this site, which will summarize soil contamination that has been detected in the area, and characterize health risks for area residents. As more information becomes available EPA, ATSDR, and CDPHE will keep you informed of any significant findings.

In June 2000, ATSDR will be conducting an exposure investigation at properties with the highest levels of soil contamination. Residents at these properties can be voluntarily tested for arsenic in urine and hair. In addition, the EPA has also offered blood lead and urine and hair arsenic testing to individuals residing at properties that have required soil removal due to high soil contamination levels.

If you or any of your patients would like more information about soil sampling or health investigations in these neighborhoods, any of the following people may be contacted:

Bonnie Lavelle, EPA Superfund project manager  
Barbara O'Grady, CDPHE Superfund project manager  
Jane Mitchell, CDPHE Environmental Health Scientist  
Dr. David Mellard, ATSDR  
Celia VanDerLoop, Denver Dept. of Environmental Health  
Gene Hook, Denver Dept. of Environmental Health  
Terry Taylor, CDPHE Lead Poisoning Prevention Program Coordinator  
(maybe keep to one contact per agency?)

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Who should sign this letter?